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Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Statement submitted by the Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* E/2004/100.

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The Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture (FPSC) is a Spanish NGO, working in cooperation for development since 1992. It is the first Spanish NGO in financial resources allocated and number of projects executed in the Southern Mediterranean shore and it also works in Asia, South America and Africa.

FPSC has obtained its special consultative status with ECOSOC in 2001.

In 2003 we participated to the high level segment of ECOSOC in the debate of 2003 on *"Promoting an integrated approach for rural development in developing countries to eradicate poverty and to achieve sustainable development"*.

For it, we have previously organized a preparatory workshop, in collaboration with the Euro-Arab Network of NGOs for Development and Integration (READI), composed of 41 NGOs from the southern and northern shores of the Mediterranean area. The workshop took place in April 2003in Madrid in the headquarters of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, with the participation of 23 NGOs from 10 different countries from Africa, Asia, Europe and South America as well as the support of the senior interregional adviser from the United Nations/UNDESA, the UN-NGO-Informal regional Network (IRENE) Project Coordinator, NGO Section, ECOSOC, UNDESA.

The conclusions and recommendations were developed and adopted by the 23 NGOs present at the workshop as well as by the 41 NGOs affiliated to the READI.

These recommendations and conclusions were presented during the substantive session of the High Level Segment of ECOSOC held in Geneva in July 1, 2003 and a written statement was submitted to the ECOSOC. One of the adopted recommendations was to develop partnership programmes and projects on integrated approach for rural development with FPSC, READI, UNDESA and the NGOs present in the workshop as a concrete follow-up action to the ministerial Declaration and HLS ECOSOC Recommendations. I am pleased today to announce that this programme has been already submitted to UNDESA and is waiting only for its financial clearance. Also, it is important to underline that the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation expressed informally its interest to participate in the funding of some components of the project.

This program aims at promoting integrated rural development program to effectively contribute in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is composed of 11 projects to be developed with 10 NGOs of 7 different countries and will be executed in partnership between the FPSC, READI and with the general coordination, follow-up and evaluation of UNDESA. It will be implemented in the least developed rural areas of Middle East and North African countries which poverty situation is very similar to the actual situation of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

This year FPSC and READI are also organizing an interregional preparatory meeting for the debate of ECOSOC high level segment on: *"Resources Mobilization and Enabling Environment for Poverty Eradication in the Context of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001- 2010"*.

A total of 34 NGOs from 15 different countries have already answered positively to the invitation to participate.

Since this year is the tenth anniversary of the International Year for the Family: IYF+10, we will focus our meeting and recommendations on a very concrete and important topic in cooperation for development: *the rule of the family in development, poverty eradication and peace-building*.

Our contribution would consist in a communication reflecting the experiences of NGOS for development in their understanding and boosting of the role of the family in the economical, social and sustainable development of their own country as well as in their fight against poverty and in the peace-building processes.

These propositions could serve as guidelines in order to elaborate strategies and programs to enable an environment for the eradication of poverty in the least developed countries and also to mobilize financial resources from private and public agencies.